

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wildlife Refuges, Alaska Peninsula & Becharof National Wildlife Refuges**

Stable Isotope Analysis of Alaskan Carnivore Diets
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 15.608

Notice of Funding Opportunity #: F14AS00254

Notice of Funding Availability and Application Instructions

The US Fish and Wildlife Service, Headquarters Region 7 intends to award a single source financial assistance agreement as authorized by 505 DM 2.14 (B) to Seth Newsome Ph.D., University of New Mexico, Department of Biology, Albuquerque, New Mexico. This notice is not a request for proposals and the Government does not intend to accept proposals. Award will be made approximately 15 days after this notice.

This financial assistance opportunity is being issued under the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESUs) Network. (<http://cesu.psu.edu>). The CESUs network provides research, technical assistance, and education to federal land management, environmental, and research agencies and their partners. The partners serve the biological, physical, social, cultural, and engineering disciplines needed to address natural and cultural resource management issues at multiple scales and in an ecosystem context.

I. Description of Funding Opportunity

The applicant/recipient will furnish all materials, labor, and equipment necessary to process and analyze samples collected by the USFWS Alaska Peninsula NWRs (Mammals Program) for stable isotope analyses of carnivore diets in Alaska. Tissues to be analyzed include vibrissae, hair, muscle, bone, and other tissues as required by study objectives. There is no upper limit to the number of samples that may be processed as far as time, materials, and funding allow. Primary analyses will involve determination of carbon ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$) and nitrogen ($\delta^{15}\text{N}$) values for carnivore and prey tissues but may also include other analyses as agreed upon by both parties. Samples will be rinsed with 2:1 chloroform:methanol to remove surface contaminants. Vibrissae samples will be sub-sampled into ~0.5 mg segments using nail clippers to provide longitudinal records of carnivore diets. Prey hair samples will be cut into small pieces with scissors and homogenized. Muscle samples will be lipid-extracted with repeated rinses and sonication with the same solvent. Hair and muscle samples will be freeze-dried and ~0.5 mg of the powdered tissue samples will be used for analyses. Carbon and nitrogen values will be determined using a NC 2500 Carlo Erga or Costech 4010 elemental analyzer interfaced with a Thermo-Fennigan Delta Plus XL mass spectrometer or equivalent equipment. This funding is authorized by the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 742a-742j; Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958, 16 U.S.C. 661-666; Sikes Act of 1974, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 670(a)-670(o); Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 3101; Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, Public Law 92-522, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1361-1421; Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980; Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 4701-4741; the Lacey Act (18 U.S.C. 42; 50 CFR 16). The FWS CESU agreement number is #60181AJ403.

II. Award Information

The amount of this award is not to exceed \$38,000. There is one award. The period of performance for this award is 48 months between August 1, 2014 and July 31, 2017. The period of performance and amount awarded may be increased in order to meet project needs and as agreed upon by both parties. The USFWS, Region 7, Alaska Peninsula & Becharof National Wildlife Refuges intends to award a single source financial assistance grant agreement as authorized by 505 DM 2.14 (B) to Seth Newsome, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

III. Basic Eligibility Requirements

Eligible Applicants:

Restricted, CESU Single Source - University of New Mexico

Federal law mandates that all entities applying for Federal financial assistance must have a valid Dun & Bradstreet Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number and have a current registration in the System for Award Management (SAM). See Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 25 (2 CFR 25) for more information. Exemptions: The SAM registration requirement does not apply to individuals submitting an application on their own behalf and not on behalf of a company or other for-profit entity, state, local or Tribal government, academia or other type of organization.

A. DUNS Registration

Request a DUNS number online at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. U.S.-based entities may also request a DUNS number by telephone by calling the Dun & Bradstreet Government Customer Response Center, Monday – Friday, 7 AM to 8 PM CST at the following numbers:

U.S. and U.S Virgin Islands: 1-866-705-5711

Alaska and Puerto Rico: 1-800-234-3867 (Select Option 2, then Option 1)

For Hearing Impaired Customers Only call: 1-877-807-1679 (TTY Line)

Once assigned a DUNS number, entities are responsible for maintaining up-to-date information with Dun & Bradstreet.

B. Entity Registration in SAM

Register in SAM online at <http://www.sam.gov/>. Once registered in SAM, entities must renew and revalidate their SAM registration at least every 12 months from the date previously registered. Entities are strongly urged to revalidate their registration as often as needed to ensure that their information is up to date and in synch with changes that may have been made to DUNS and IRS information. Foreign entities who wish to be paid directly to a United States bank account must enter and maintain valid and current banking information in SAM.

C. Excluded Entities

Applicant entities identified in the SAM.gov Exclusions database as ineligible, prohibited/restricted or excluded from receiving Federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain Federal assistance and benefits will not be considered for Federal funding, as applicable to the funding being requested under this Federal program

D. Cost Sharing or Matching: Cost share or match is not required.

IV. Application Requirements

To be considered for funding under this funding opportunity, an application must contain:

A. A completed, signed, and dated Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424).

The SF-424 form is available online at <http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/FormLinks?family=15>.

Do not include other Federal sources of funding, requested or approved, in the total entered in the “Federal” funding box on the Application for Federal Assistance form. Enter only the amount being requested under this program in the “Federal” funding box. Include any other Federal sources of funding in the total funding entered in the “Other” box.

B. Project Summary

Project Title: Stable Isotope Analysis of Alaskan Carnivore Diets

Dietary variation at the individual level is increasingly recognized as an important component of diversity in trophic interactions. Identification of individual dietary specialization, however, requires longitudinal records that are labor- and cost-intensive to obtain for carnivores, especially individuals from Alaskan populations that live in remote locations. This study will use isotopic analysis of carnivore vibrissae and prey tissues to evaluate dietary variation, which is a proven method for resolving seasonal resource use and individual dietary specialization in mammalian carnivores. This approach is especially promising in the context of the ecology of wolves and other carnivores because little dietary information is available for carnivores in Alaska which limits the ability of land managers and agencies to effectively manage carnivores and their prey sources in many regions of Alaska. Tissue samples of carnivores and potential prey will be collected by Dom Watts (USFWS). Tissues to be analyzed include vibrissae, hair, muscle, bone, and other tissues as required by study objectives. There is no upper limit to the number of samples that may be processed as far as time, materials, and funding allow. Primary analyses will involve determination of carbon ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$) and nitrogen ($\delta^{15}\text{N}$) values for carnivore and prey tissues. Samples will be rinsed with 2:1 chloroform:methanol to remove surface contaminants. Vibrissae samples will be sub-sampled into ~0.5 mg segments using nail clippers to provide longitudinal records of carnivore diets. Prey hair samples will be cut into small pieces with scissors and homogenized. Muscle samples will be lipid-extracted with repeated rinses and sonication with the same solvent. Hair and muscle samples will be freeze-dried and ~0.5 mg of the powdered tissue samples will be used for analyses. Carbon and nitrogen values will be determined using a NC 2500 Carlo Erga or Costech 4010 elemental analyzer interfaced with a Thermo-Scientific isotope ratio mass spectrometer or equivalent equipment. As a control for the quality of keratin, we will measure the carbon-to-nitrogen ([C]/[N]) ratios of each sample and compare them to the theoretical atomic [C]/[N] ratio of keratin (3.4). Data from this study will provide important information regarding carnivore foraging ecology to management agencies. This study represents ongoing collaborative efforts between Seth Newsome (UNM) and Dom Watts (USFWS) aimed at examination of carnivore diets in Alaska. Planning for this project has been conducted in close coordination between Seth Newsome (UNM) and Dom Watts (USFWS). Project results will be disseminated through collaboratively developed manuscripts published in peer-reviewed journals.

C. Project Narrative

1. Statement of Need:

The diets of mammalian carnivores are often poorly understood and management of carnivore species is commonly based on little information. Dietary variation at the group and individual levels is increasingly recognized as an important component of diversity in trophic interactions. Because carnivore diets are poorly understood in many regions, information is currently needed to develop appropriate management strategies in Alaska. This project will use isotopic analysis of carnivore vibrissae to evaluate dietary variation among individuals, groups, populations, and seasons. Isotopic analysis is a proven method for resolving seasonal resource use and individual dietary specialization in mammalian carnivores. Further, wolves and other carnivores influence their primary prey populations and information is currently needed by management agencies in order to manage prey populations. Ongoing collaborations between the Alaska Peninsula & Becharof NWRs Mammals Program and Seth Newsome (University of New Mexico) have provided much insight into carnivore foraging ecology in southwest Alaska and elsewhere. Continued collaborative work between these two entities is necessary to improve understanding of carnivore foraging ecology and the influence of carnivores on community structure and function in several regions of Alaska. Funding is needed by the University of New Mexico in order to process and analyze samples.

2. Project Goals and Objectives:

The long-term goal is to expand existing information related to carnivore diets and document foraging strategies for wolves and a variety of other carnivores in several regions of Alaska. The primary objective of the stable isotope analyses is to examine foraging strategies and individual variation among samples collected from carnivores in several regions of Alaska. There is no upper limit to the number of samples that may be processed as far as time, materials, and funding allow. Anticipated benefits of the project include improved information that can be used by the USFWS and other management agencies to develop appropriate management and conservation strategies for carnivores and other wildlife in Alaska.

3. Project Activities, Methods and Timetable:

UNM will furnish all materials, labor, & equipment needed to process and analyze samples collected. Alaska Peninsula NWRs Mammal Program will provide samples for analysis. The work will be divided into the following basic categories:

(1) Sample Preparation and Storage.

Samples will be sorted, prepped, archived, and stored for analysis. For carbon ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$) and nitrogen ($\delta^{15}\text{N}$) isotope analysis, vibrissae will be rinsed with a 2:1 chloroform/methanol mixture to remove surface contaminants. Cleaned vibrissae will be sub-sampled into ~0.5 mg segments using nail clippers and sealed into tin boats for isotopic analysis. Prey hair samples will be rinsed with 2:1 chloroform:methanol to remove surface contaminants and cut into small pieces with scissors, homogenized, and sealed in tin boats for analysis. Muscle samples will be lipid-extracted with repeated rinses and sonication with the same solvent solution. Hair and muscle samples will be freeze-dried ~0.5 mg of the powdered tissue samples will be sealed into tin boats for analysis; there is no upper limit to the number of specimens that may be processed as far as time and materials allow.

(2) Isotope Analysis.

Carbon ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$) and Nitrogen ($\delta^{15}\text{N}$) values will be determined using a NC 2500 Carlo Erba or Costech 4010 elemental analyzer interfaced with a Thermo-Scientific isotope ratio mass spectrometer or equivalent equipment. Isotope results are expressed as δ values, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ or $\delta^{15}\text{N} = 1000 * [(R_{\text{sample}}/R_{\text{standard}}) - 1]$, where R_{sample} and R_{standard} are the $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ or $^{15}\text{N}/^{14}\text{N}$ ratios of the sample and standard, respectively. The standards are Vienna-Pee Dee Belemnite limestone (V-PDB) for carbon and atmospheric N_2 for nitrogen. The units are expressed as parts per thousand, or per mil (‰). As a control for the quality of keratin, the carbon-to-nitrogen ($[\text{C}]/[\text{N}]$) ratios of each sample will be measured and compare to the theoretical atomic $[\text{C}]/[\text{N}]$ ratio of keratin (3.4).

General Timetable: 48 months

2014: Stable isotope analysis of available samples and continued collection and preparation of samples for future analysis. Data from completed isotope analysis will be made available to Alaska Peninsula & Becharof NWRs Mammal Program staff as data become available including an updated database of isotope values.

2015–2017: Continued sample collection and isotope analyses of available samples. Data from completed isotope analysis will be made available to Alaska Peninsula & Becharof NWRs Mammal Program staff as data become available including an updated database of isotope values. Begin collaborative preparation of manuscripts related to data developed under this agreement.

June 2017: Begin and prepare for final analysis of remaining collected samples. Data from completed isotope analysis will be made available to Alaska Peninsula & Becharof NWRs Mammal Program staff as data become available including an updated database of isotope values. Isotope analyses will be finalized. All results will be provided to Alaska Peninsula & Becharof

NWRs Mammal Program staff in excel spreadsheet format. Collaborative manuscripts will be further developed.

Dec 2017: Final activities report will be submitted to Alaska Peninsula & Becharof NWRs Mammal Program staff. All funds will have been billed, reports completed, and project concluded. Collaborative manuscript development and submissions will likely continue after the close of this agreement.

4. Anticipated Products/Outputs:

An understanding of carnivore diets on refuges is fundamental to the management and conservation of carnivores and other wildlife species, especially under ANILCA's broad conservation and subsistence use mandates. As part of an ongoing effort to document carnivore foraging ecology and use of prey species in several regions of Alaska, data from this study will expand our knowledge of carnivore diets and facilitate appropriate management and conservation of carnivores and other wildlife in Alaska.

5. Project Monitoring and Evaluation:

The Alaska Peninsula & Becharof NWRs Mammals Program staff (Dom Watts) will be in regular communication with Seth Newsome and UNM to ensure timely progress on stable isotope analyses, reporting of current status, and data management. A final report and excel database will be developed to ensure project goals are met.

6. Description of Organization(s) Undertaking the Project:

Dr. Seth Newsome (UNM) will manage and oversee the University of New Mexico activities related to this study. Since 2006, Dr. Seth Newsome and collaborators have completed numerous research projects related to stable isotope analyses and mammalian foraging ecology including studies in Alaska. In addition, Dr. Seth Newsome has collaborated with the Alaska Peninsula NWRs Mammals Program on multiple projects regarding studies of carnivore diets using stable isotope analysis and is well qualified to the continuation of such collaborative efforts. Professional CV on file, no additional information needed.

7. Sustainability:

Results from this project will be cooperatively developed into reports and documented in academic journals making findings from this project available to management agencies and the public. It is anticipated that data from this project will provide information to monitor the influence of predators on their prey populations, monitor changes in community structure and function, and increase overall knowledge of carnivore diets in Alaska to improve management capacity.

8. Literature Cited – Not applicable

9. Map of Project Area: Not applicable

D. Budget Form

Complete the **Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF 424A)** or **Budget Information for Construction Programs (SF 424C) form**. Use the SF 424A if your project does not include construction and the SF 424C if the project includes construction or land acquisition. The budget forms are available online at <http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/FormLinks?family=15>. When developing your budget, keep in mind that financial assistance awards and subawards are subject to the cost principles in the following Federal regulations, as applicable to the recipient organization type:

- 2 CFR Part 220, Cost Principles for Educational Institutions

- 2 CFR Part 225, Cost Principles for States and Local Governments
- 2 CFR Part 230, Cost Principles for Non-Profit Organizations
- 45 CFR Part 74, Appendix E, Principles for Determining Costs Applicable to Research and Development Under Grants and Contracts with Hospitals
- 48 CFR 1, Subpart 31.2, Contracts with Commercial Organizations

Links to the full text of these Federal cost principles are available on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/grants/>.

Multiple Federal Funding Sources:

If the project budget includes multiple Federal funding sources, you must show the funds being requested from this Federal program *separately* from any other requested/secured Federal sources of funding on the budget form. For example, enter the funds being requested from this Federal program in the first row of the Budget Summary section of the form and then enter funding related to other Federal programs in the subsequent row(s). Be sure to enter each Federal program’s CFDA number in the corresponding fields on the form. The CFDA number for this Federal program appears on the first page of this funding opportunity.

E. Budget Justification

In a separate narrative titled “**Budget Justification**”, explain and justify all requested budget items/costs. Detail how the SF 424 Budget Object Class Category totals were determined and demonstrate a clear connection between costs and the proposed project activities. For personnel salary costs, include the base-line salary figures and the estimates of time (as percentages) to be directly charged to the project. Describe any item that under the applicable Federal Cost Principles requires the Service’s approval and estimate its cost.

Required Indirect Cost Statement:

All applicants except individuals applying for funds separate from a business or non-profit organization he/she may operate **must** include in the budget justification narrative one of the following statements and attach to their application all required documentation as detailed in the following table:

Circumstance:	Statement to include in budget narrative:	Other document(s) to attach:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No indirect cost rate • Charges all costs directly 	<p>Indirect Cost Statement: Our organization does not have an indirect cost rate and will charge all costs directly.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is not an individual • Has an indirect cost rate • Has an approved Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) with their Federal cognizant agency covering part/all of the proposed project period 	<p>Indirect Cost Statement: We have an approved NICRA covering part/all of the proposed project period. A copy of that NICRA is attached.</p>	<p>Copy of approved NICRA.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is not an individual 	<p>Indirect Cost Statement: Our indirect cost rate is [insert a description of the rate]. We have</p>	<p>Copy of most recently expired NICRA and,</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has an indirect cost rate • Has established a NICRA in the past, but do not have an approved rate covering part/all of the proposed project period • May or may not have recently submitted a new NICRA proposal to cognizant agency. If not, will do so within the required timeframe, in the event an award is made 	<p>established a NICRA in the past but it expired. [Insert one of the following statements: “We submitted a new NICRA proposal to our cognizant agency on [insert date].” OR “In the event an award is made we will submit a NICRA proposal to our cognizant agency immediately and no later than 90 calendar days after the award is made”. We understand that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although the Service may approve a budget that includes an estimate of indirect costs based on our stated rate, that approval will be contingent on our establishing a NICRA. • Recipients without a NICRA are prohibited from charging indirect costs to a Federal award. • Failure to establish a NICRA during the award period will make all costs otherwise allocable as indirect costs under the award unallowable. • We will not be authorized to transfer any unallowable indirect costs to the amount budgeted for direct costs or to satisfy cost-sharing or matching requirements without the prior written approval of the Service. <p>We may not shift unallowable indirect costs to another Federal award unless specifically authorized by legislation.</p>	<p>when applicable, a copy of any NICRA proposal submitted to the cognizant agency that is currently pending approval.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is not an individual • Has an indirect cost rate • Has never established a NICRA in the past • Will submit a NICRA proposal to cognizant agency within the required timeframe, in the event an award is made 	<p>Indirect Cost Statement: Our indirect cost rate is [insert a description of the rate]. We have never established a NICRA. In the event an award is made we will submit a NICRA proposal to our cognizant agency immediately and no later than 90 calendar days after the award is made. We understand that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although the Service may approve a budget that includes an estimate of indirect costs based on our stated rate, that approval will be contingent on our establishing a NICRA. • Recipients without a NICRA are prohibited from charging indirect costs to a Federal award. • Failure to establish a NICRA during the award period will make all costs otherwise allocable as indirect costs under the award unallowable. • We will not be authorized to transfer any unallowable indirect costs to the amount budgeted for direct costs or to satisfy cost-sharing or matching requirements without the prior written approval of the Service. <p>We may not shift unallowable indirect costs to another Federal award unless specifically authorized by legislation.</p>	<p>None at the time of application. In the event an award is made, recipient must submit a copy of their approved NICRA before charging indirect costs to the award.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is not an individual, state, local or Federally- 	<p>Indirect Cost Statement: We have never established a NICRA in the past and will not be</p>	<p>None.</p>

<p>recognized Indian tribal government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has never established a NICRA in the past • Cannot charge all costs directly • Will not be able to meet the requirement to submit a NICRA proposal within 90 calendar days after award, in the event an award is made 	<p>able to meet the requirement to submit a NICRA proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after award, in the event an award is made. In the event an award is made we request as a condition of award to charge a flat indirect cost rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC). We understand this rate will apply for the life of the award, including any future extensions for time, and that the rate cannot be changed even if we do establish a NICRA at any point during the award period. We understand that MTDC is defined as all salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and subawards and subcontracts up to the <u>first</u> \$25,000 of each subaward or subcontract (regardless of the period of performance of the subawards and subcontracts under the award). We understand that MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs and the portion of each subaward and subcontract in excess of \$25,000.</p>	
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Applicants who are individuals applying for funds separate from a business or non-profit organization he/she may operate are not eligible to charge indirect costs to their award. If you are an individual applying for funding, do not include any indirect costs in your proposed budget.

For more information on indirect cost rates, see the Service’s **Indirect Costs and Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreements** guidance document on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/grants/>.

Negotiating an Indirect Cost Rate with the Department of the Interior:

For organizations without a NICRA, you must have an open, active Federal award to submit an indirect cost rate proposal to your cognizant agency. The Federal awarding agency that provides the largest amount of direct funding to your organization is your cognizant agency, unless otherwise assigned by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB). If the Department of the Interior is your cognizant agency, your indirect cost rate will be negotiated by the Interior Business Center (IBC). For more information, contact the IBC at:

Indirect Cost Services
Acquisition Services Directorate, Interior Business Center
U.S. Department of the Interior
2180 Harvard Street, Suite 430
Sacramento, CA 95815
Phone: 916-566-7111
Email: ics@nbc.gov
Internet address: <http://www.aqd.nbc.gov/Services/ICS.aspx>

F. Statements Regarding A-133 Single Audit Reporting:

Following OMB Circular A-133 (http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/a133/a133_revised_2007.pdf), all U.S. states, local governments, federally-recognized Indian tribal governments, and non-profit organizations expending \$500,000 USD or more in Federal award funds in a fiscal year must submit

an A-133 Single Audit report for that year through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse's Internet Data Entry System.

All U.S. state, local government, federally-recognized Indian tribal government and non-profit applicants must provide a statement regarding if your organization was/was not required to submit an A-133 Single Audit report for the organization's most recently closed fiscal year and, if so, state if that report is available on the Federal Audit Clearinghouse Single Audit Database website (<http://harvester.census.gov/sac/>). Include these statements at the end of the Project Narrative in a section titled "**A-133 Single Audit Reporting Statements**".

G. Assurances

Include the appropriate signed and dated Assurances form available online at <http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/FormLinks?family=15>. Use the **Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF 424B)** if the project does not involve construction. Use the **Assurances for Construction Programs (SF 424D)** if the project does involve construction or land acquisition. Signing this form does not mean that all items on the form are applicable. The form contains language that states that some of the assurances may not be applicable to your organization and/or your project or program.

H. Certification and Disclosure of Lobbying Activities:

Under Title 31 of the United States Code, Section 1352, an applicant or recipient must not use any federally appropriated funds (both annually appropriated and continuing appropriations) or matching funds under a grant or cooperative agreement award to pay any person for lobbying in connection with the award. Lobbying is defined as influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress connection with the award. Submission of an application also represents the applicant's certification of the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A-Certification Regarding Lobbying. If you/your organization have/has made or agrees to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying in connection with this project AND the project budget exceeds \$100,000, complete and submit the **SF LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities** form. See 43 CFR, Subpart 18.100 for more information on when additional submission of this form is required. Submission of an application also represents the applicant's certification of the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A-Certification Regarding Lobbying.

Application Checklist

- DUNS Registration (see requirement in Section III Basic Eligibility Requirements, A Duns Registration)
- SAM active registration (see requirement in Section III Basic Eligibility Requirements, B Entity Registration in SAM)
- Evidence of non-profit status:** If a non-profit organization, a copy of their Section 501(c)(3) or (4) status determination letter received from the Internal Revenue Service.
- SF 424, Application for Federal Assistance:** A complete, signed and dated SF 424, SF 424-Mandatory, or SF 424- Individual form
- SF 424 Budget form:** A complete SF 424A or SF 424C Budget Information form
- SF 424 Assurances form:** Signed and dated SF 424B or SF 424D Assurances form
- Project summary, if applicable**
- Project narrative**
- Timetable**
- Description of key personnel qualifications, if applicable**

- A-133 Single Audit Reporting statement:** If a U.S. state, local government, federally-recognized Indian tribal government, or non-profit organization, statements regarding applicability of and compliance with OMB Circular A-133 Single Audit Reporting requirements
- Budget justification**
- Federally-funded equipment list:** If Federally-funded equipment will be used for the project, a list of that equipment
- NICRA:** When applicable, a copy of the organization's current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
- SF LLL form:** If applicable, completed SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form

Failure to provide complete information may cause delays, postponement, or rejection of the application.

V. Submission Instructions

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 4:00 pm, July 15, 2014, Alaska Standard Time

Intergovernmental Review: Before submitting an application, **U.S. state and local government** applicants should visit the following website (http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_spoc/) to determine whether their application is subject to the state intergovernmental review process under Executive Order (E.O.) 12372 "Intergovernmental review of Federal Programs." E.O. 12372 was issued to foster the intergovernmental partnership and strengthen federalism by relying on state and local processes for the coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance and direct Federal development. The E.O. allows each state to designate an entity to perform this function. The official list of designated entities is posted on the website. Contact your state's designated entity for more information on the process the state requires to be followed when applying for assistance. States that do not have a designated entity listed on the website have chosen not to participate in the review process.

Download the Application Package linked to this Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov to begin the application process. Downloading and saving the Application Package to your computer makes the required government-wide standard forms fillable and printable. Completed applications may be submitted by mail, by email, electronically through Grants.gov, or as otherwise described in the Grants.gov funding opportunity. Please select **ONE** of the submission options:

To submit an application by mail:

Number all pages of your printed application. Mail one, single-sided, unbound copy (do not staple or otherwise permanently bind pages) of your complete application to the Service program point of contact identified in the Grants.gov funding opportunity.

The required SF 424 Application for Federal Assistance and Assurances forms and any other required standard forms **MUST** be signed by your organization's authorized official. The Signature and Date fields on the standard forms downloaded from Grants.gov are pre-populated with the text "Completed by Grants.gov upon submission" or "Completed on submission to Grants.gov". **Remove this text (manually or digitally) before signing the forms.**

To submit an application by e-mail:

Format all of your documents to print on Letter size (8 ½" x 11") paper. Format all pages to display and print page numbers. Scanned documents should be scanned in Letter format, as black and white images only. Where possible, save scanned documents in .pdf format. E-mail your application to the Service program point of contact identified in the Grants.gov funding opportunity.

The required SF 424 Application for Federal Assistance and Assurances forms and any other required standard forms MUST be signed by your organization's authorized official. The Signature and Date fields on the standard forms downloaded from Grants.gov are pre-populated with the text "Completed by Grants.gov upon submission" or "Completed on submission to Grants.gov". Remove this text (manually or digitally) before signing the forms.

To submit an application through Grants.gov:

Go to the Grants.gov Apply for Grants page (http://www07.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp) for an overview of the process to apply through Grants.gov. You/your organization must complete the Grants.gov registration process before submitting an application through Grants.gov. Registration can take between three to five business days, or as long as two weeks if all steps are not completed in a timely manner.

Important note on Grants.gov application attachment file names: Please do not assign application attachments file names longer than 20 characters, including spaces. Assigning file names longer than 20 characters will create issues in the automatic interface between Grants.gov and the Service's financial assistance management system.

VI. APPLICATION REVIEW

Criteria:

To be considered for funding, applications must have the technical expertise and facilities to prepare and analyze a variety of tissues (e.g., vibrissae, bone collagen, muscle, hair, etc) for stable isotope analysis. PURPOSE: Information regarding carnivore diets in Alaska is needed to develop appropriate management strategies for wildlife in Alaska. Since 2011, Dr. Seth Newsome, at the University of New Mexico, has collaboratively worked on projects related to stable isotope analysis of carnivore diets in Alaska. This work has produced important information used in management of carnivores and other wildlife in Alaska. Dr. Seth Newsome is uniquely qualified for this project as he has considerable (10+ years) experience with stable isotope analysis, use of these methods to examine carnivore diets, and current work being conducted in the region. Since 2004, he has published >40 papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals; the majority of which used stable isotope analysis for ecological studies.

Review and Selection Process:

This award will be reviewed by the Large Mammal Program staff based on the recipient's unique qualifications including technical expertise in stable isotope analysis of carnivore diets using vibrissae and other tissues, previous experience and understanding of ongoing project design and needs, and access to all necessary equipment for stable isotope analyses (e.g., mass spectrometer, preparation materials, etc.).

VII. Award Administration

Award Notices:

Following review, applicants may be requested to revise the project scope and/or budget before a final award can be made. Successful applicants will receive written notice in the form of a Notice of Award document. Notice of Award documents are typically sent to recipients by e-mail. If e-mail notification is unsuccessful, the documents will be sent by courier mail (FedEx, DHL, Airborne Express). Award recipients are not required to sign/return the Notice of Award document. Acceptance of an award is defined as starting work, drawing down funds, or receiving the award via electronic means. Awards are based on the application submitted to, and as approved by, the USFWS. Applicants whose projects are not selected for funding will receive written notice, most often by e-mail, within 30 days of the final review decision.

Domestic Recipient Payments:

Prior to an award being issued to you/your organization, the USFWS program office will contact you/your organization to either enroll in the U.S. Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system or, if eligible, submit to the USFWS program a request to obtain approval from the Department of the Interior to be waived from using ASAP.

Domestic applicants subject to the SAM registration requirement (see Section III above) who receive a waiver from receiving funds through ASAP must enter and maintain current banking information in SAM. Domestic applicants exempt from the SAM registration requirement (see Section III above) who receive a waiver from receiving funds through ASAP will be required to submit their banking information directly to the USFWS program. However, ***do NOT submit any banking information to the USFWS until it is requested from you by the USFWS program!***

Transmittal of Sensitive Data:

Recipients are responsible for ensuring any sensitive data being sent to the Service is protected during its transmission/delivery. The Service strongly recommends that recipients use the most secure transmission/delivery method available. The Service recommends the following digital transmission methods: secure digital faxing; encrypted emails; emailing a password protected zipped/compressed file attachment in one email followed by the password in a second email; or emailing a zipped/compressed file attachment. The Service strongly encourages recipients sending sensitive data in paper copy to use a courier mail service. Recipients may also contact their Service Project Officer and provide any sensitive data over the telephone.

Award Terms and Conditions:

Acceptance of a financial assistance award (i.e., grant or cooperative agreement) from the Service carries with it the responsibility to be aware of and comply with the terms and conditions applicable to the award. Acceptance is defined as the start of work, drawing down funds, or accepting the award via electronic means. Awards are based on the application submitted to and approved by the Service and are subject to the terms and conditions incorporated into the notice of award either by direct citation or by reference to the following: Federal regulations; program legislation or regulation; and special award terms and conditions. The Federal regulations applicable to Service awards are available on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/grants/>. If you do not have access to the Internet and require a full text copy of the award terms and conditions, contact the Service point of contact identified in the Agency Contacts section below.

Recipient Reporting Requirements:

Interim financial reports and performance reports may be required. Interim reports will be required no more frequently than quarterly, and no less frequently than annually. A final financial report and a final performance report will be required and are due within 90 calendar days of the end date of the award. Performance reports must contain: 1) a comparison of actual accomplishments with the goals and objectives of the award as detailed in the approved scope of work; 2) a description of reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate; and 3) any other pertinent information relevant to the project results.

Significant Development Reports:

Events may occur between the scheduled performance reporting dates that have significant impact upon the supported activity. In such cases, recipients are required to notify the Service in writing as soon as the following types of conditions become known:

- Problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will materially impair the ability to meet the objective of the Federal award. This disclosure must include a statement of any corrective action(s) taken or contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation.

- Favorable developments that enable meeting time schedules and objectives sooner or at less cost than anticipated or producing more or different beneficial results than originally planned.

The Service will specify in the notice of award document the reporting and reporting frequency applicable to the award.

VIII. Agency Contacts

Program contact:

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